

**William Pearith to George Washington, May 25, 1770,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM WILLIAM PEARETH, ESQ.

LONDON the 25 May 1770

SIR/

In my last I troubled Coll. Hunter to get forwarded to you Messrs. Colvill & West as Ex rs to the late Mr. Colvill a letter from Newcastle, covering the Pedigree of Dulcibella Stott & Certificate of her then residing there, which has been formed in consequence of an Advertisement put into the News Papers by the direction of the Will of the said Mr. Colvill.¹

I then represented to you the distressed Circumstances this poor Woman was laboring under & how salutary a speedy relief would be to her, but above all begged to have some answer to satisfy her about her great Expectations, which I fear by Coll. Hunter's Account given me will never profit her much.

I can hardly suppose my letter has miscarried as it was forwarded by one of this Gentleman's friends: I have seen him since I came to Town & he has assured me that if I could write to you, you would have the goodness to enquire if my letter was ever received, & to send me an answer thereto.

If there is a possibilty of getting anything for this poor old woman, I hope you will be so charitable as to use your Interest in her Behalf; I however flatter myself that you will very

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soon favor me with an answer to this, directed to Newcastle upon Tine, setting forth the State of the Case, that I may satisfy her how Things are, which Coll. Hunter say'd I might depend upon your doing, if I made use of his name, the same as if he had given me a Line to you himself, to desire you would take this Trouble.

I do assure you I have no other Interest in the affair than a desire of getting this poor woman who now lives upon Charity a certain Information whether she is or is not to expect any advantage from the Will of the late Mr. Colvill, for without some advice from one of you Gentlemen concerned there will be [no] satisfying her or making her easy about it.

You will excuse the Liberty I take in troubling [you] with this letter, if you will favor me with a speedy answer to it, you will very much oblige

Sir/ Your obt. hble Servt. WM. PEARETH.

1 The following extract from Thomas Colville's will is bound with the Washington manuscripts: "Paragraph of the Will of Thos. Colvill decd. And whereas my Mother Catherine Colvill had several near relations in Durham of the Names of Stott, Wills, Richardson and a Woman called Catherine Smith—it is my will & desire that the overplus or residue of my estate when sold as aforesaid (if any surplus there be) be divided into four equal parts and that each of the before mention'd Stott, Wills, Richardson & Smith have one fourth part of the overplus of my Estate my meaning is that those of these Names the nearest related to my said Mother or their direct descendants have each their fourth parts of the said residue after having made sufficient proof of their respective relationship to my said Mother—And that they enter their several claims & make proper proofs as aforesaid to my executors within five years after my decease as in and by the said Will reference being thereto had will more fully appear"—